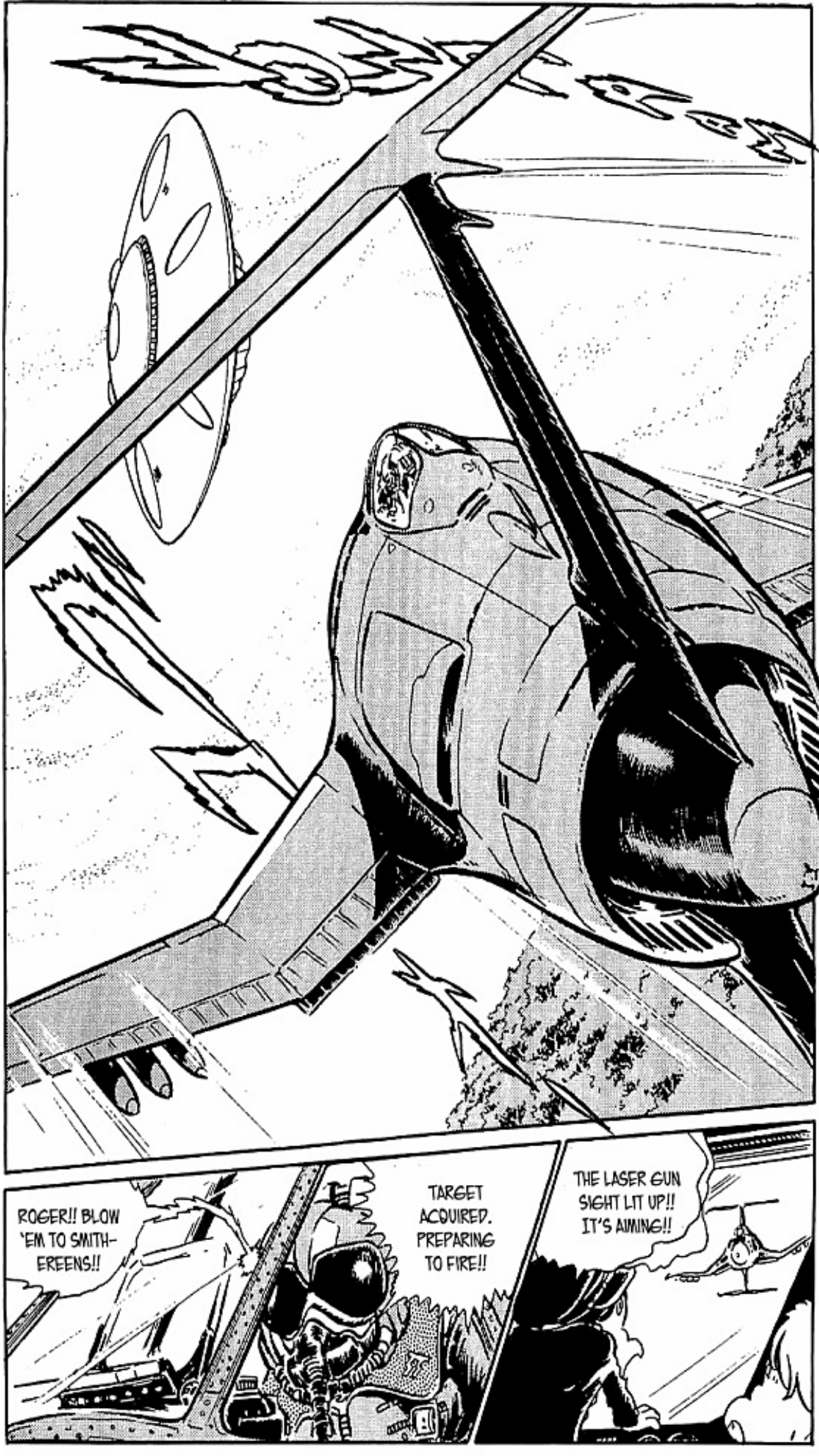
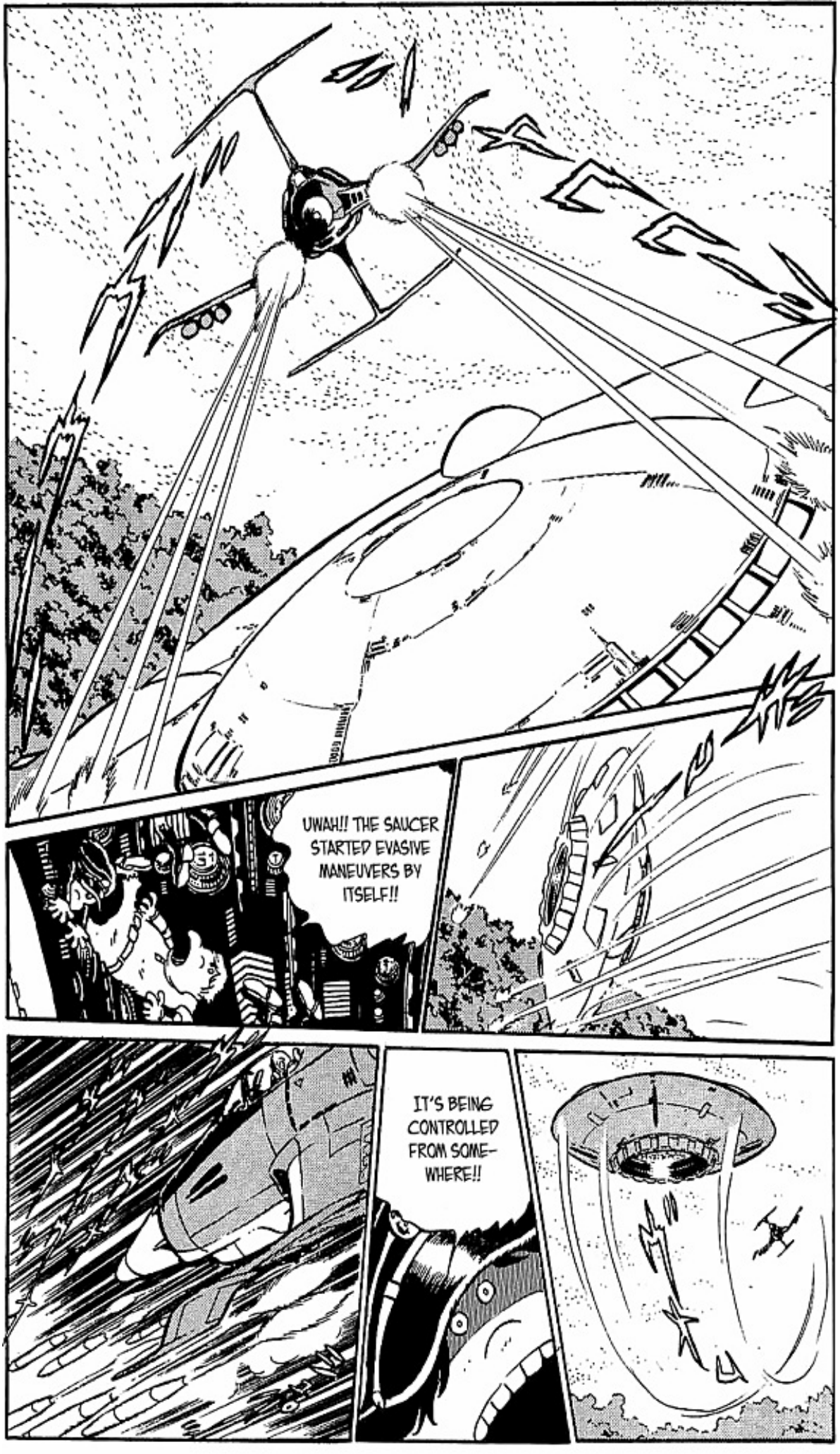
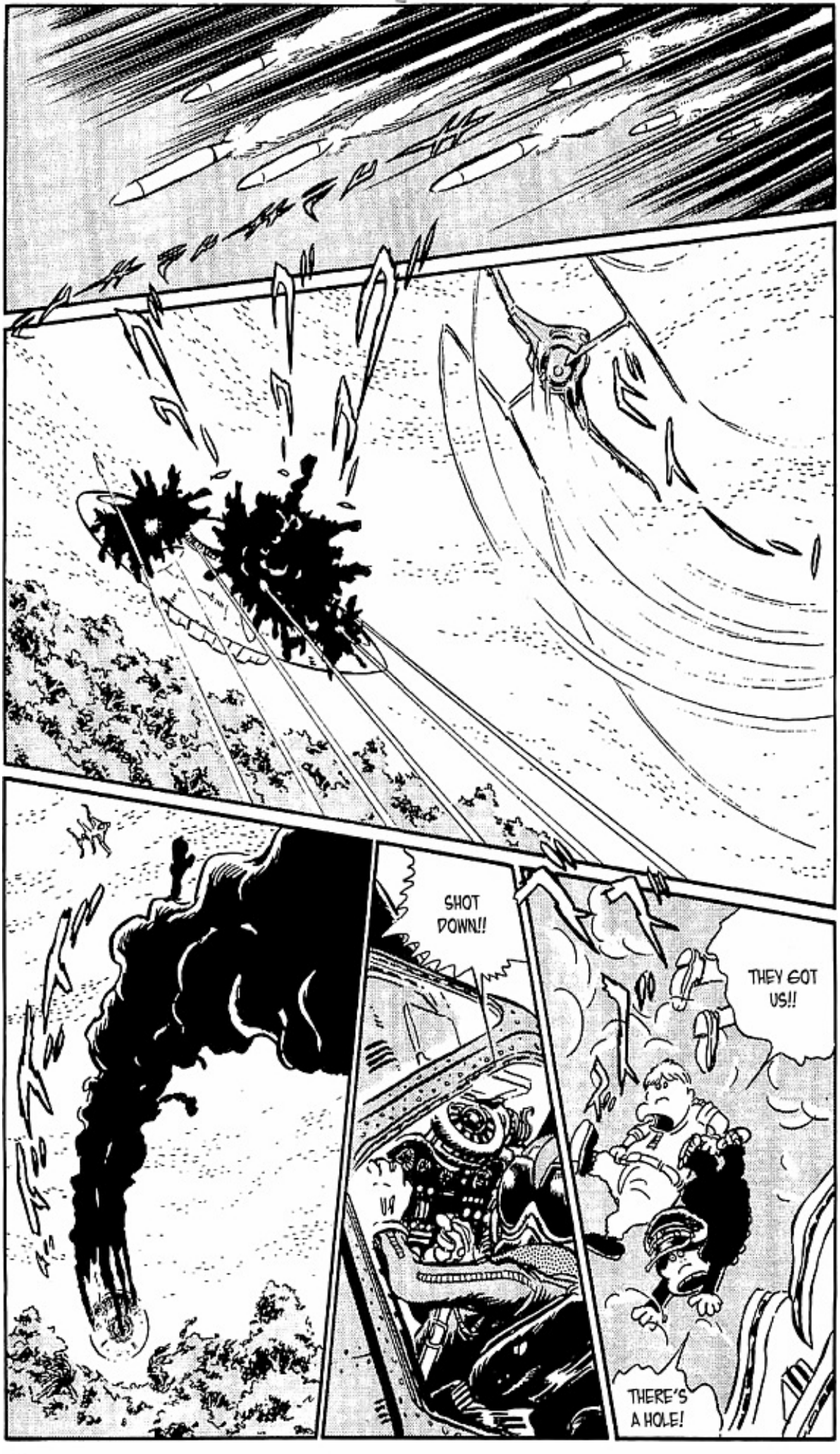
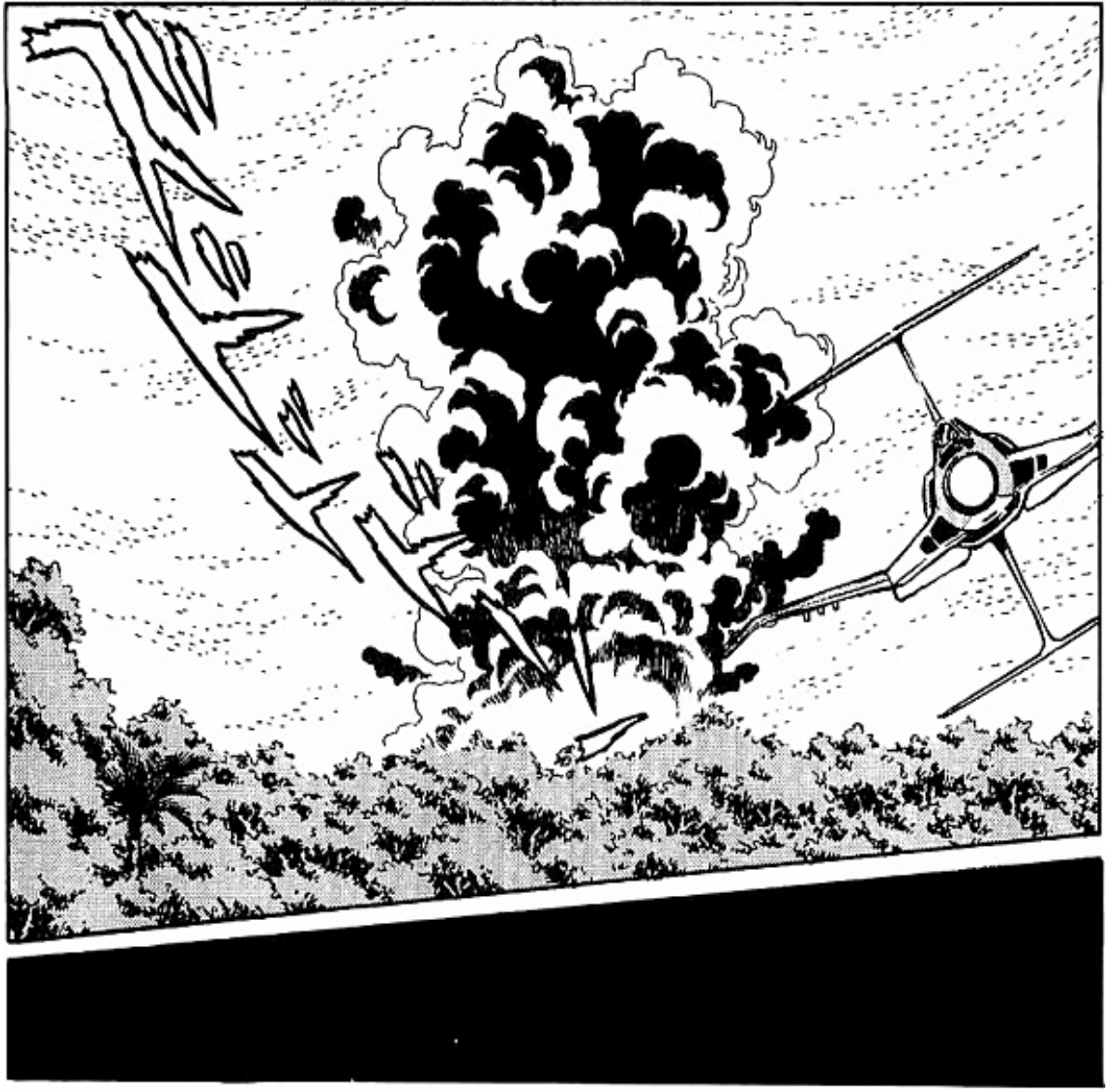

ROGER!! BLOW 'EM TO SMITHEREENS!!
TARGET ACQUIRED. PREPARING TO FIRE!!
THE LASER GUN SIGHT LIT UP!! IT'S AIMING!!


UWAH!! THE SAUCER STARTED EVASIVE MANEUVERS BY ITSELF!!
IT'S BEING CONTROLLED FROM SOME-WHERE!!


SHOT DOWN!!
THEY GOT US!!
THERE'S A HOLE!

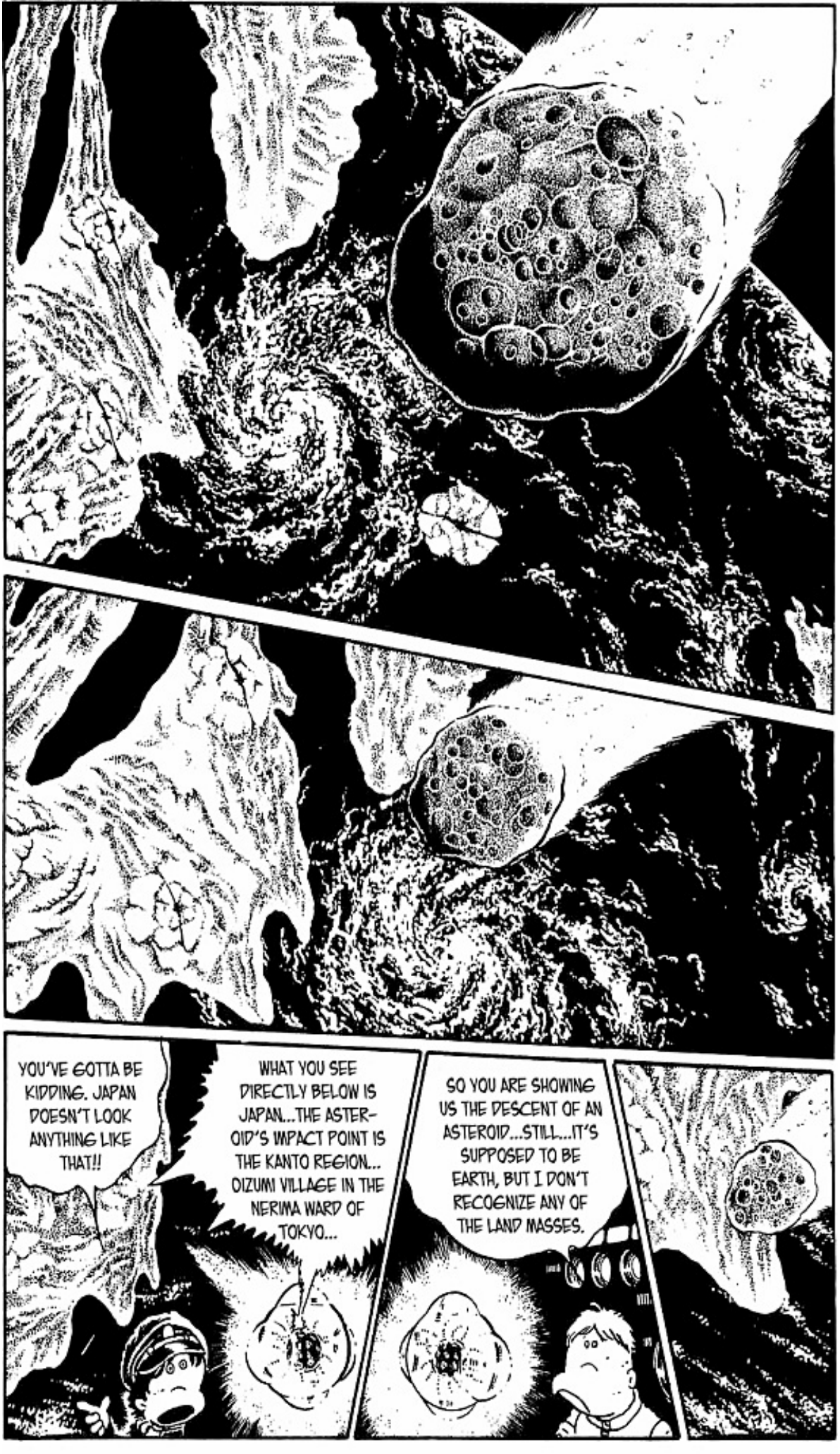


YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE IT, BUT THIS IS THE OBSERVATORY.
WHERE ARE WE?
FROM YAYOI!?
WHAT!?
PROFESSOR! THERE'S A PHONE CALL FROM YAYOI YUKINO. FOR HASHIME!!
A LOT HAS HAPPENED WHILE YOU'VE BEEN OUT.
EH? WE WENT BACK UP!? WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?

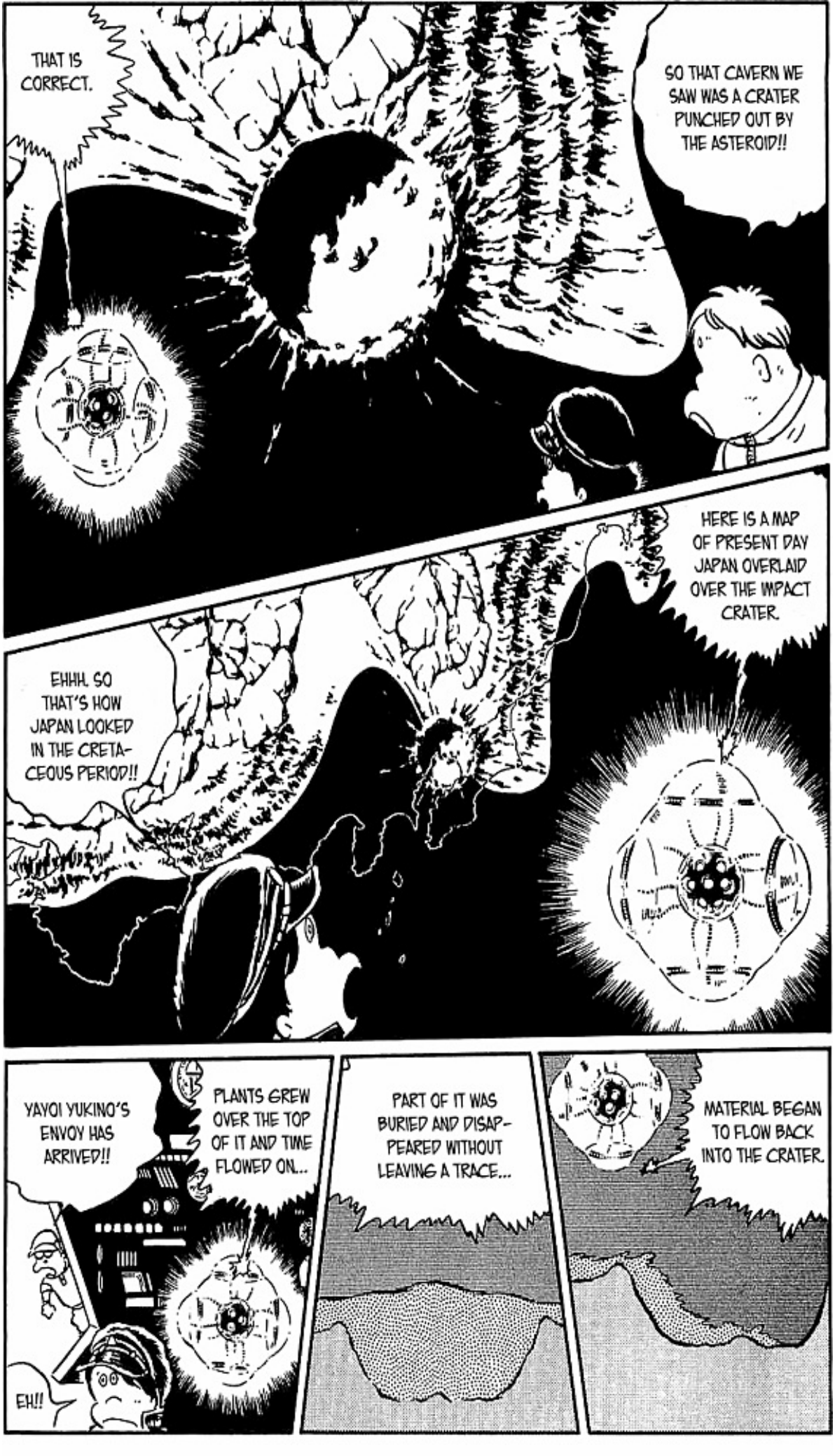
YOU'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH IF YOU COME.
YAYOI!! WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M SORRY FOR SUDDENLY CHANGING INTO AN ANDROID AND EVERYTHING. I ASSURE YOU IT WASN'T TO IRRITATE YOU OR SURPRISE YOU.
IF I COME...
THAT'S RIGHT!!
BEFORE YOU DO THAT, PLEASE GIVE THE PROFESSOR WHAT THE ETERNAL MANAGER OF THE APARTMENT COMPLEX GAVE YOU FOR HIM.
A- ALONE?
I'VE SENT YOU AN ENVOY WHO WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY... BUT PLEASE... COME ALONE.
HMM...THAT'S SOME KIND OF DATA CAPSULE... AND PROBABLY QUITE A LOT OF DATA...
THIS...
THE ENVOY I SENT IS VERY VERSATILE...
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
YAYOI!! WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME...AND WHO ARE YOU? IF I LET HASHIME GO ALONE, THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES...

COME, HASHIME. THE ANALYSIS OF THE DATA CAPSULE SHOULD BE ABOUT FINISHED. LET'S GO READ IT.
WHEN THE SAUCER CRASHED AND WE WERE UNCONSCIOUS, MAYBE THAT'S WHAT CARRIED US BACK TO THE CAPSULE.
SHE SAYS HER ENVOY IS VERSATILE...IS IT SOME KIND OF SUPER-POWERFUL ROBOT OR ANDROID?
HAVE YOU FIGURED IT OUT?
NO. IT'S AS DEAD AS A DOORNAIL.
WAS IT DESTROYED IN THE UPROAR... OR MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY A QUESTION...
YES. I WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS.
SO YOU ASK VERBALLY AND IT REPLIES!!
LIKE IT'S ALIVE!!
SO...LET'S SEE...WHO MADE YOU, AND WHERE DID YOU COM FROM?
I AM UNABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT MYSELF.
OH, SO YOU'RE A MACHINE WHO GETS TO PICK YOUR QUESTIONS!?
WHAT IS IT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK? PLEASE ASK ME A QUESTION!!
AH HA HA. HE'S JUST TESTING YOU.

THERE EXISTS NOTHING BESIDES THE ETERNAL MANAGER.
OKAY. WHAT ABOUT THAT ETERNAL MANAGER LADY THAT SENT YOU?
THE CEILING IS TWO KILOMETERS HIGH, AND THE INTERIOR HAS BEEN MAINTAINED IN ITS CURRENT STATE SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.
IT IS AN UNDERGROUND CAVERN WITH A DIAMETER OF FORTY KILOMETERS THAT LIES BELOW OIZUMI VILLAGE IN THE NERIMA WARD OF TOKYO.
MY, YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO BE ANNOYING. WELL...WHAT IS THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN THEN?
ORIGINAL STATE...SINCE WHICH PERIOD AND WHAT IS THE REASON FOR IT BEING UNDER TOKYO?
WHAT'S THAT?
THE DATA CAPSULE IS PROJECTING A STEREO IMAGE!!
THAT'S EARTH!! AND AN ASTEROID...IS APPROACHING IT!!


YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING. JAPAN DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!
WHAT YOU SEE DIRECTLY BELOW IS JAPAN...THE ASTEROID'S IMPACT POINT IS THE KANTO REGION... OIZUMI VILLAGE IN THE NERIMA WARD OF TOKYO...
SO YOU ARE SHOWING US THE DESCENT OF AN ASTEROID...STILL...IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE EARTH, BUT I DON'T RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE LAND MASSES.

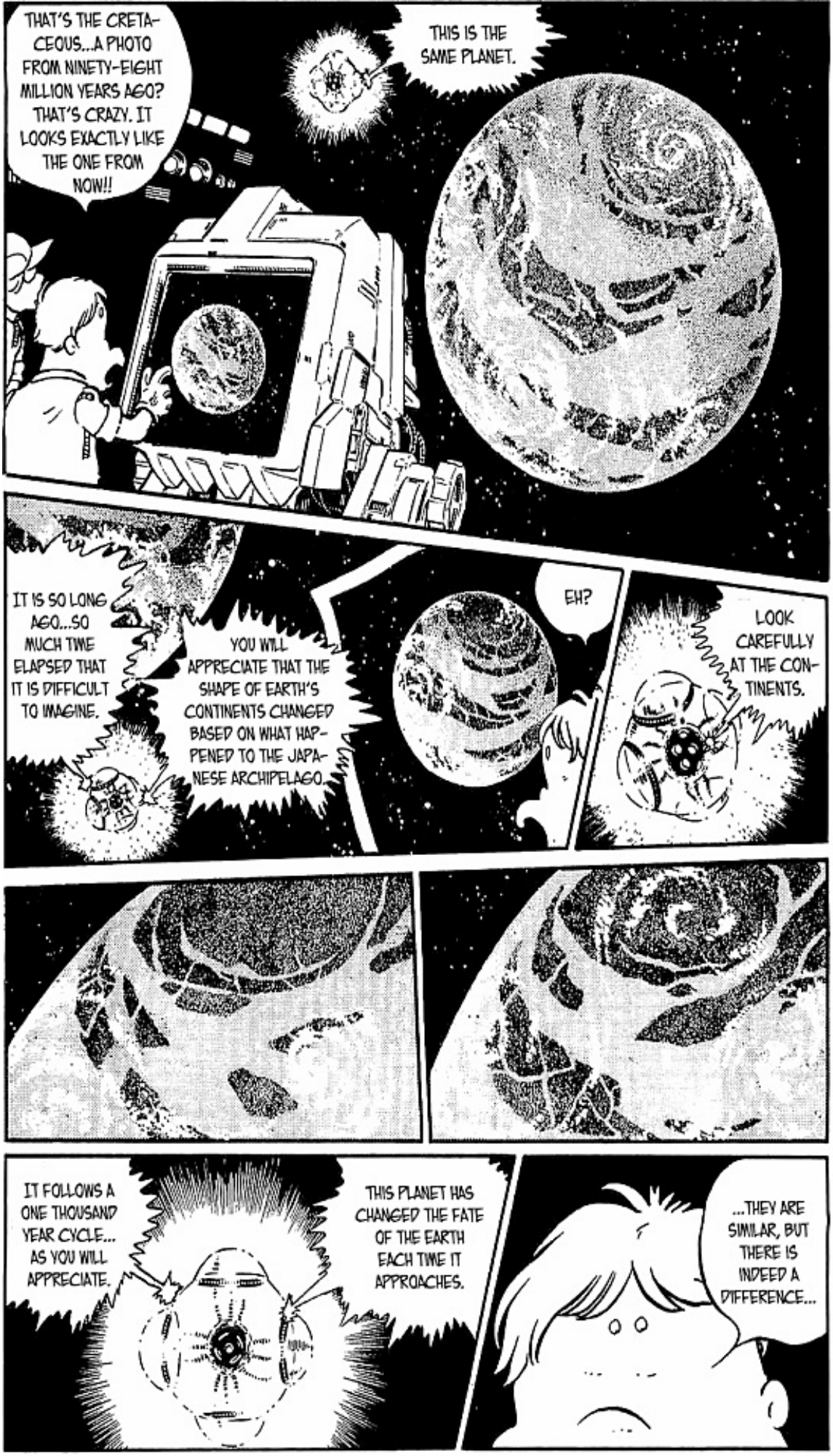
THE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO DID NOT YET HAVE ITS CURRENT FORM.
MESOZOIC CRETACEOUS...THE EARTH OF NINETY-EIGHT MILLION YEARS AGO.
THE CRETACEOUS WAS BACK WHEN THE EARTH WAS LOUSY WITH DINOSAURS...
M- M- MESOZOIC CRETACEOUS?
A VIDEO FROM THAT TIME? NINETY-EIGHT MILLION YEARS AGO!?
THIS VIDEO IS A RECORD THAT WE MADE OF THAT TIME.
BUT THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANIMATION OR SPECIAL EFFECTS... IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S REAL...
HOW COULD ANYONE HAVE MADE THIS RECORD!?
YES. THE ASTEROID STRUCK WHAT IS NOW TOKYO AT A PERPENDICULAR ANGLE OF NINETY DEGREES.
THAT IS HOW THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN WAS MADE.
THE ASTEROID CRASHED.

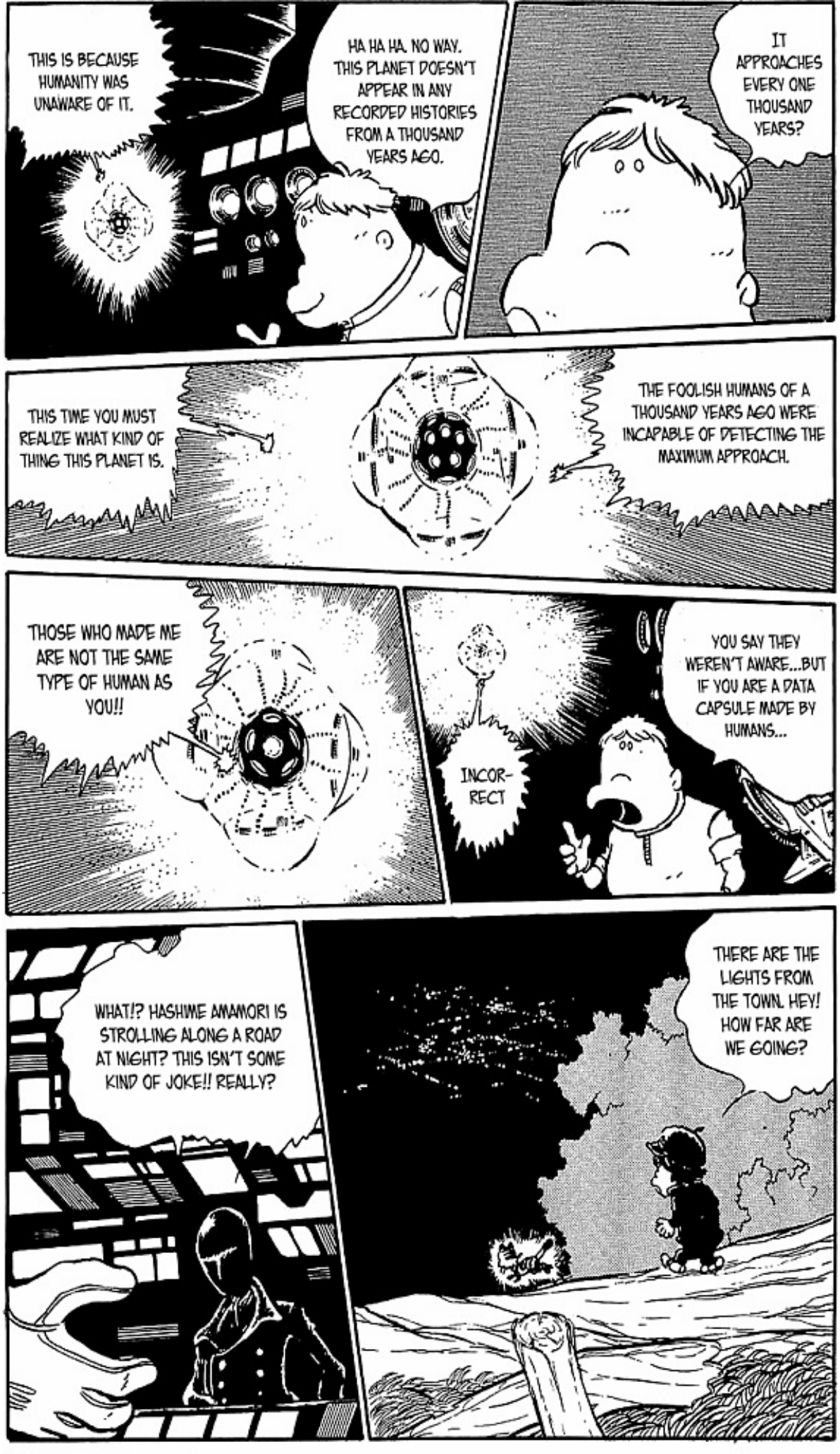

THAT IS CORRECT.
SO THAT CAVERN WE SAW WAS A CRATER PUNCHED OUT BY THE ASTEROID!!
HERE IS A MAP OF PRESENT DAY JAPAN OVERLAID OVER THE IMPACT CRATER.
EHHH. SO THAT'S HOW JAPAN LOOKED IN THE CRETA-CEOUS PERIOD!!
YAYOI YUKINO'S ENVOY HAS ARRIVED!!
PLANTS GREW OVER THE TOP OF IT AND TIME FLOWED ON...
EH!!
PART OF IT WAS BURIED AND DISAP-PEARED WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE...
MATERIAL BEGAN TO FLOW BACK INTO THE CRATER.

AND THUS THE LARGE CAVERN CAME INTO EXISTENCE.
AT THE END OF THE PLEISTOCENE, THE MATERIAL FILLING THE INTERIOR OF THE CRATER SUDDENLY CONTRACTED,
ON THE SURFACE VARIOUS KINDS OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS CAME AND WENT.
THERE IS MORE, BUT FIRST GO GREET THE ENVOY.
THAT'S FREAKING AMAZING.
EHH? YOU'RE THE ENVOY FROM YAYOI??
THAT'S ONE COCKY DATA CAPSULE GIVING US ORDERS.
MEOW
I'LL GET TO SEE YAYOI AGAIN.

BUT YOU'RE A CAT, AREN'T YOU?
INDEED. JUST THIS INDIVIDUAL.
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE. JUST THIS CAT.
HE'S A FINE CAT.
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE THINKS HE'S A CAT.
MEGOWN!
SO YOU'RE THE REAL ENVOY!
MY ENVOY IS QUITE VERSATILE. TELL HASHIME NOT TO WORRY AND COME ON.
V- VERSA- TILE, YOU SAY. BUT A CAT IS JUST A CAT...
BUT IF I JUST BLINDLY WALK OUT, THE MILLEN- NIAL THIEVES...
EH? YOU WANT ME TO FOLLOW YOU?

THAT SEEMS KINDA HEART-LESS...
SHE SAYS IT'S VERSATILE! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, AND BE SURE TO CALL!
MAYBE I'M A SIMPLETON, BUT I HAVE A FEELING I CAN TRUST YOU.
THERE'S NO WAY THIS WILL BE OKAY. I'M WORRIED NOW.
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HASHIME ALREADY?
PROFES-SOR!!
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE SATELLITE RECON PHOTO OF THE APPROACHING PLANET IN ELLIPTICAL ORBIT.
OH... THAT.
THE DATA CAPSULE!!
WHAT?
THIS PHOTO IS THE MAXIMUM AP-PROACH TOWARDS EARTH DURING THE CRETACEOUS.


THAT'S THE CRETACEOUS...A PHOTO FROM NINETY-EIGHT MILLION YEARS AGO? THAT'S CRAZY. IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE ONE FROM NOW!!
THIS IS THE SAME PLANET.
IT IS SO LONG AGO...SO MUCH TIME ELAPSED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE.
YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE SHAPE OF EARTH'S CONTINENTS CHANGED BASED ON WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO.
EH?
LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE CONTINENTS.
IT FOLLOWS A ONE THOUSAND YEAR CYCLE... AS YOU WILL APPRECIATE.
THIS PLANET HAS CHANGED THE FATE OF THE EARTH EACH TIME IT APPROACHES.
...THEY ARE SIMILAR, BUT THERE IS INDEED A DIFFERENCE...


THIS IS BECAUSE HUMANITY WAS UNAWARE OF IT.
HA HA HA. NO WAY. THIS PLANET DOESN'T APPEAR IN ANY RECORDED HISTORIES FROM A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
IT APPROACHES EVERY ONE THOUSAND YEARS?
THIS TIME YOU MUST REALIZE WHAT KIND OF THING THIS PLANET IS.
THE FOOLISH HUMANS OF A THOUSAND YEARS AGO WERE INCAPABLE OF DETECTING THE MAXIMUM APPROACH.
THOSE WHO MADE ME ARE NOT THE SAME TYPE OF HUMAN AS YOU!!
INCOR-RECT
YOU SAY THEY WEREN'T AWARE...BUT IF YOU ARE A DATA CAPSULE MADE BY HUMANS...
WHAT!? HASHIME AMAMORI IS STROLLING ALONG A ROAD AT NIGHT? THIS ISN'T SOME KIND OF JOKE!! REALLY?
THERE ARE THE LIGHTS FROM THE TOWN. HEY! HOW FAR ARE WE GOING?

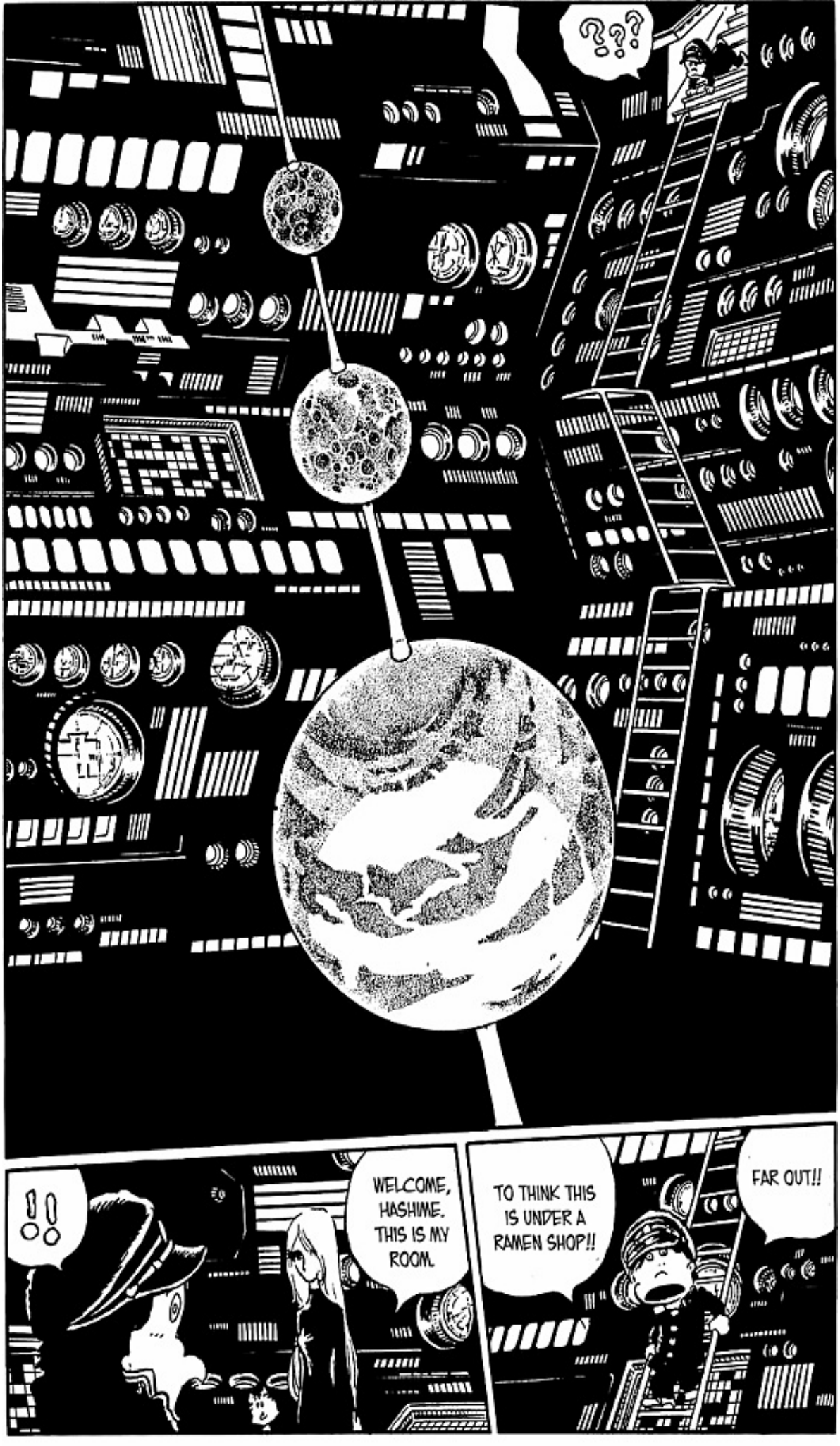
GOT 'EM. HASHIME AMAMORI AND THE CAT!! THEY LOOK COMPLETELY UNCONCERNED!!
THIS SEEMS REALLY RANDOM. AM I REALLY GONNA REACH YAYOI COMING THIS WAY?
THEY ARE ELEVEN HUNDRED METERS TO THE RIGHT.
FINE. CHOOSE A LOCATION FOR AN ATTACK.
HEY, CHECK OUT THIS ALARM SIGNAL!!
IT'S THE CAT!! THE DANGER READING IS OFF THE SCALE!!
THE SCOPE IS REGISTERING A "HAZARDOUS FOE" SIGNAL!!
YOU LOST THEM? AND YOU SAY THAT'S NO NORMAL CAT!?
WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT CAT? THE METER READING SAYS WE'LL BE IN DANGER OF DESTRUCTION IF WE LET IT GET ANY CLOSER.
PURSUIT IS IMPOSSIBLE!!

(SIGN) SANSHOKU RAMEN
三食ラーメン堂
EHH? THIS IS WHERE YAYOI IS?
FEE
中華そば
MEOW
(AWNING) CHINESE SOBA
AH, AH...HASHIME AMAMORI...
EH? YAYOI? AND YOU ARE?
AH...UM... YOU SEE...
WELCOME! WOULD YOU LIKE RAMEN?
I WONDER IF THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE...
YOU DON'T LOOK THE AGE OR TYPE TO BE ASKING HER ON A DATE.
OHH...IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YAYOI, SHE'S OUT ON A DELIVERY.

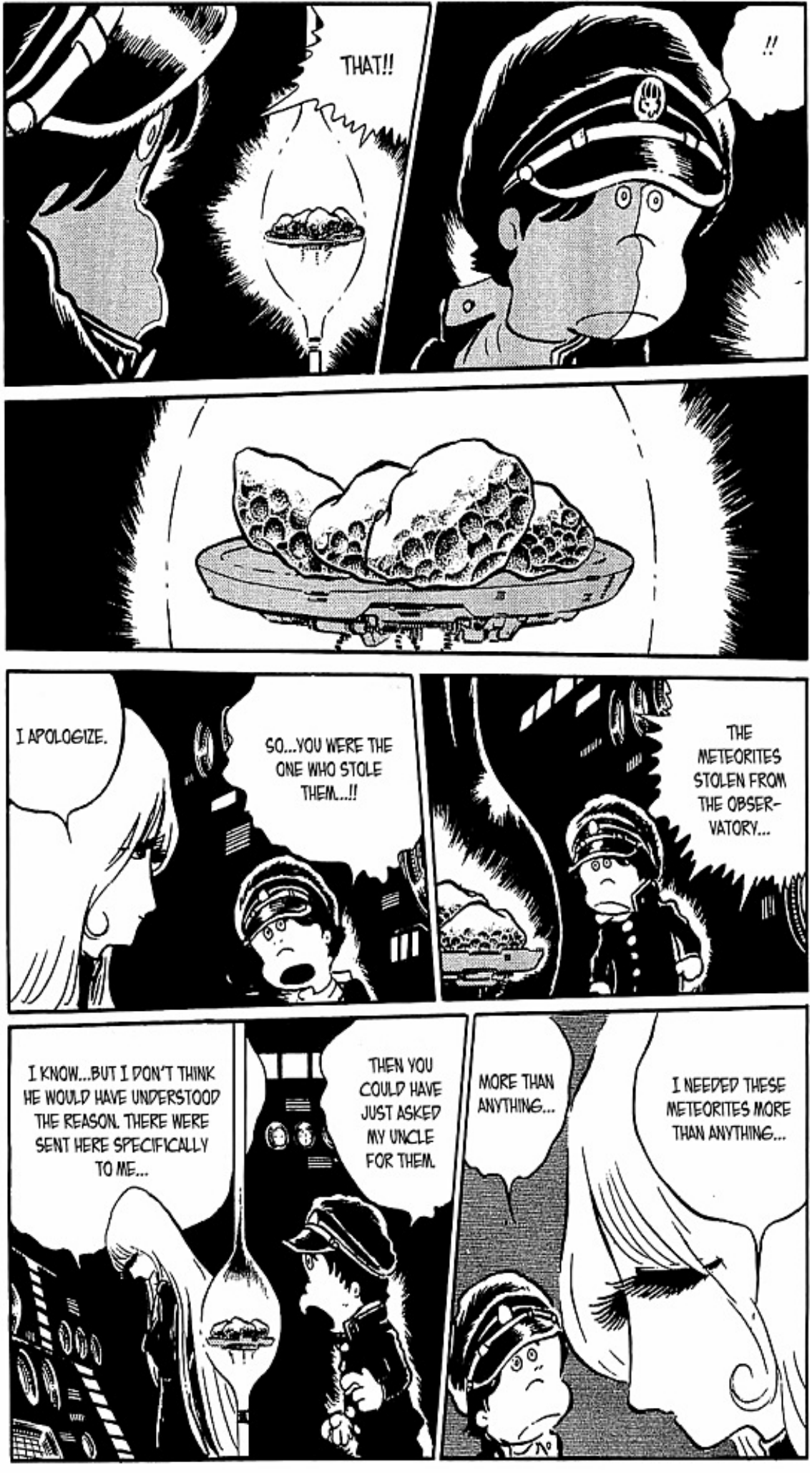
!!
I'M BACK.
YAYOI, YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
OH. THAT WAS QUICK.
TO HAVE ARRIVED NOW, YOU MUST HAVE LEFT THE OBSERVATORY AT AN ODD HOUR.
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE DATA CAPSULE AND THE CAT.
BUT...ARE YOU REALLY YAYOI?
DON'T SAY THAT SO LOUD.
DAD AND MOM DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT IT.
AND LET'S KEEP THE FACT THAT I WENT TO THE OB-SERVATORY A SECRET FROM THEM AS WELL.
YAYOI SURE HAS POOR TASTE IN FELLAS. I'M DISAPPOINTED IN HER.
YOU HAVE BAD TASTE, TOO. LOOK AT MY FACE.

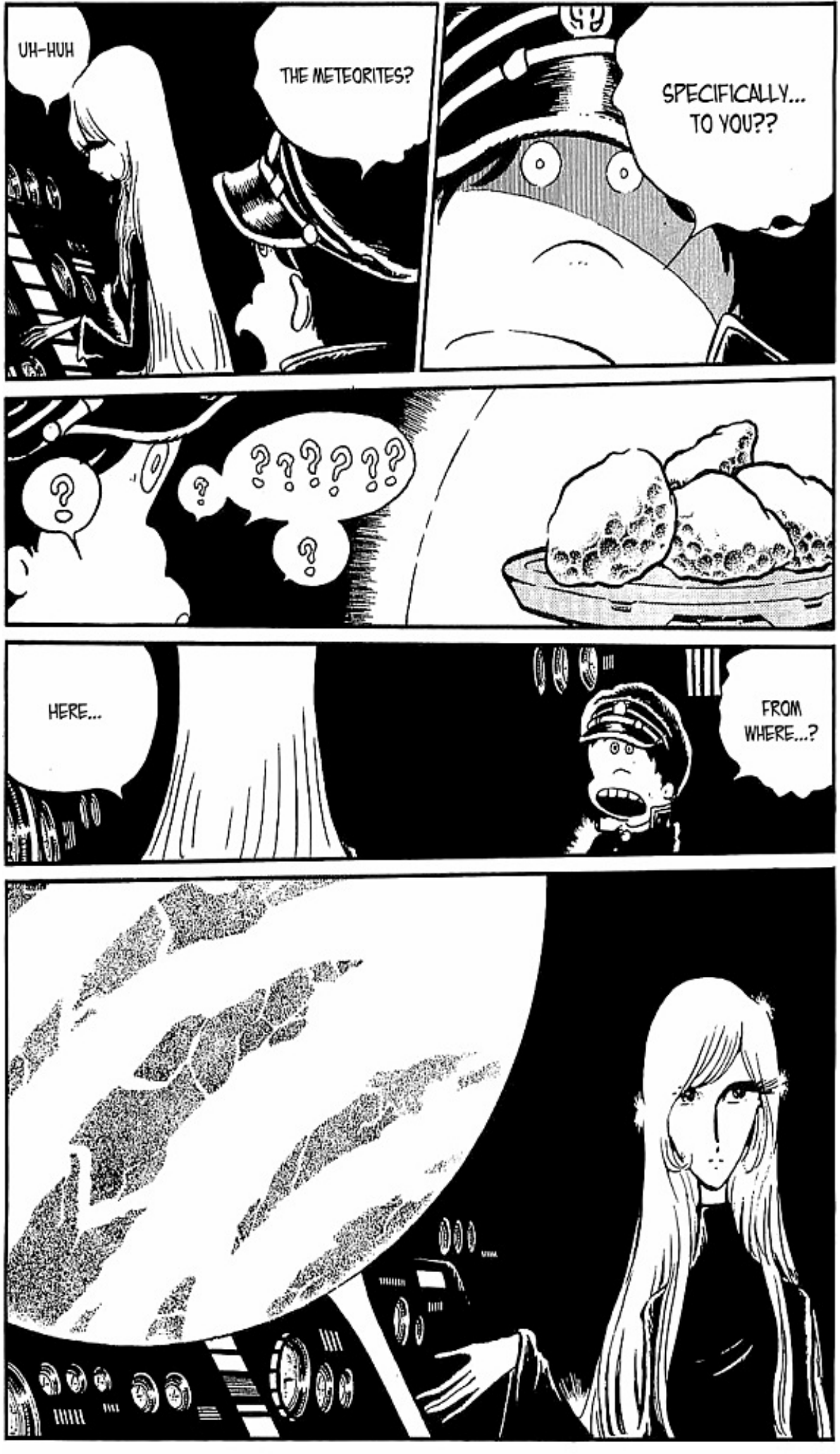
LIKE I SAID ON THE PHONE, I GUESS YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE FROM THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES.
HUH-UH...I GUESS IT WAS SOMETHING THE CAT DID, BUT I DON'T GET IT.
AFTER TEN MINUTES, GO INTO THE CLOSET. I'LL SEE YOU AFTER THAT.
THE CLOSET?
HMM. I'M NOT REALLY SURE MYSELF.
HERE'S SOME TEA... OH. WHERE DID YAYOI GO?
? ? ? ?
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU SEE IT.
! ?
TO GO INTO THE CLOSET, FIRST I HAVE TO OPEN THE DOOR...
I GUESS IT'S BEEN ABOUT TEN MINUTES...
S-SURE...
I SEE. WELL, MAKE YOURSELF AT EASE.

IT'S A PASSAGEWAY!!
WHAT IS THIS CLOSET!?
IT GOES DOWN FROM HERE...
I CAN'T TELL IF THIS HOUSE IS MODERN OR PRIMITIVE.
UWAH!
AN OBLIQUE DOOR.
I WONDER IF THIS THE RUINS OF AN OLD NINJA COMPOUND. IT'S DAMP AND CREEPY...

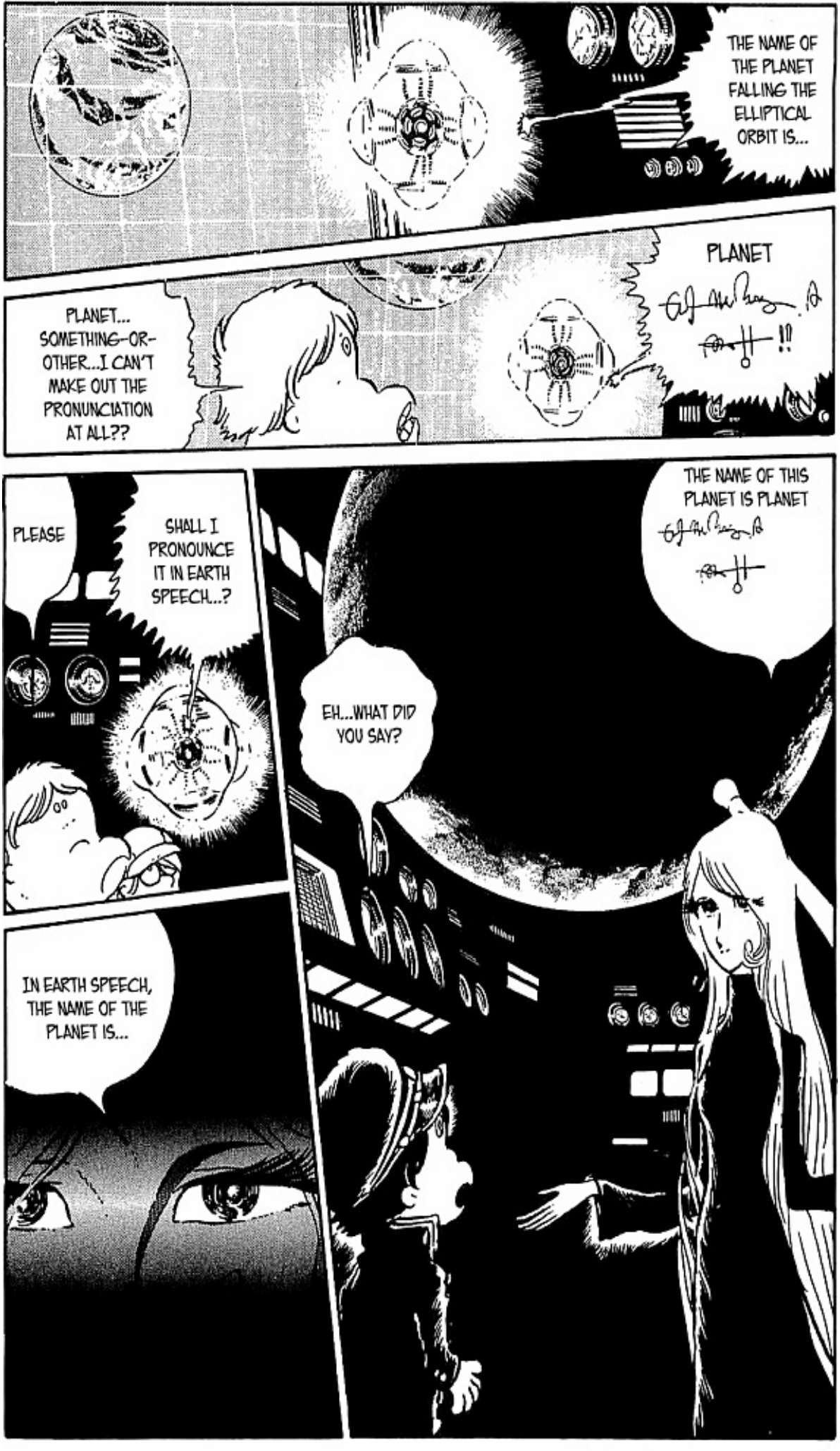

???
!!
WELCOME, HASHIME. THIS IS MY ROOM.
TO THINK THIS IS UNDER A RAMEN SHOP!!
FAR OUT!!

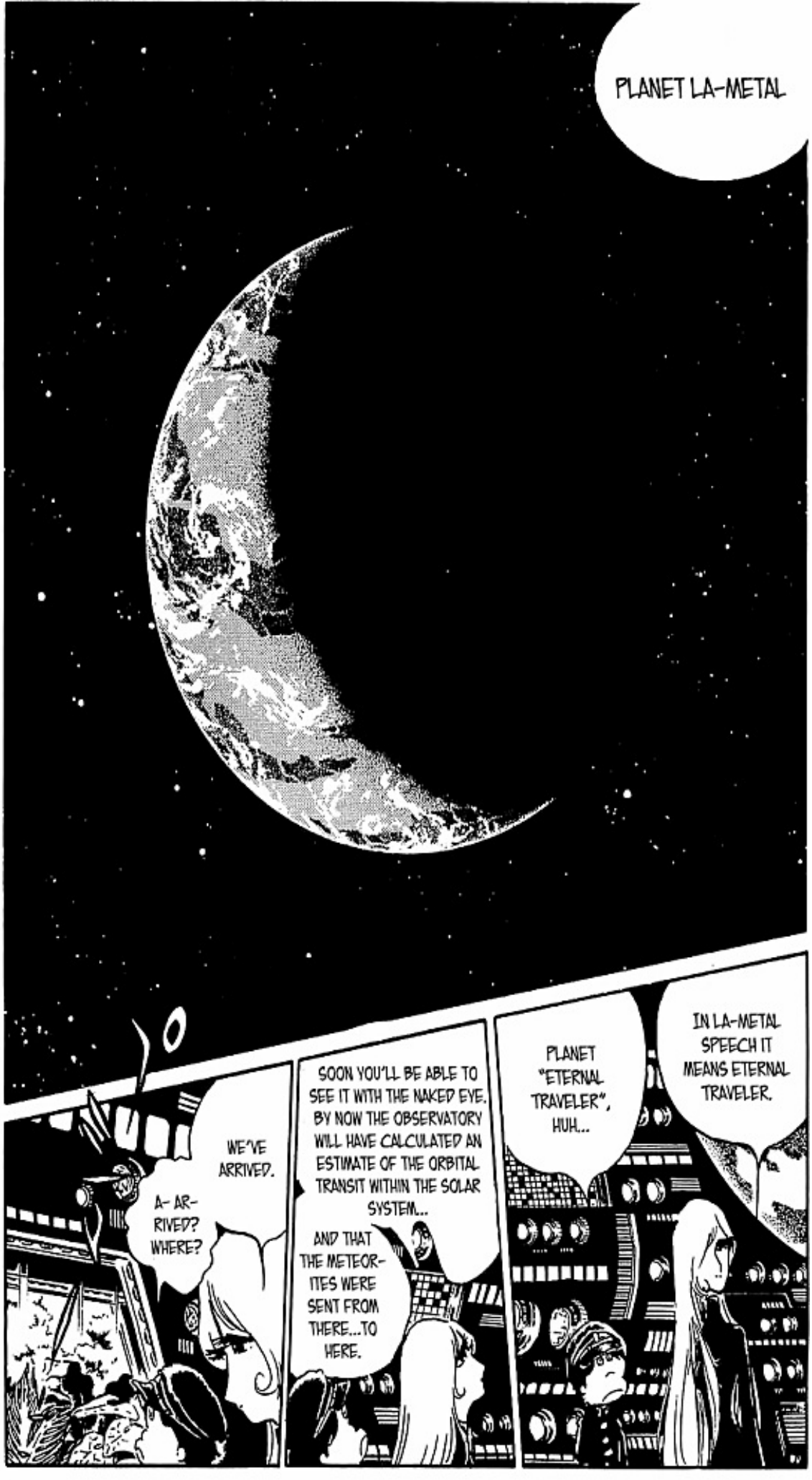
I'M NOT AN ANDROID. I'M THE REAL YAYOI YUKINO...IT'S BEEN AWHILE.
I C- CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENT AT ALL...BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


THAT!!
!!
I APOLOGIZE.
SO...YOU WERE THE ONE WHO STOLE THEM...!!
THE METEORITES STOLEN FROM THE OBSER-VATORY...
I KNOW...BUT I DON'T THINK HE WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE REASON. THERE WERE SENT HERE SPECIFICALLY TO ME...
THEN YOU COULD HAVE JUST ASKED MY UNCLE FOR THEM.
MORE THAN ANYTHING...
I NEEDED THESE METEORITES MORE THAN ANYTHING...

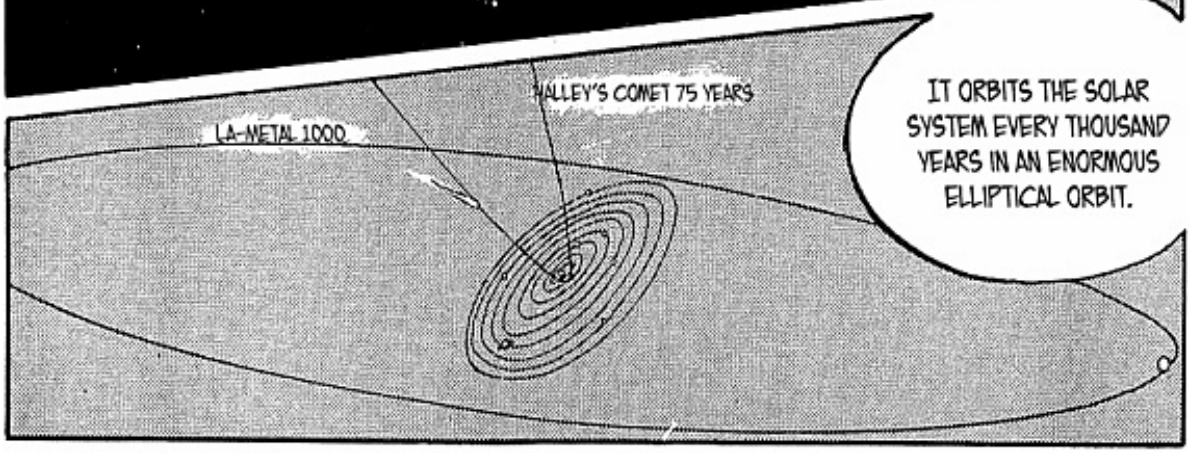

UH-HUH
THE METEORITES?
SPECIFICALLY... TO YOU??
??????
HERE...
FROM WHERE...?

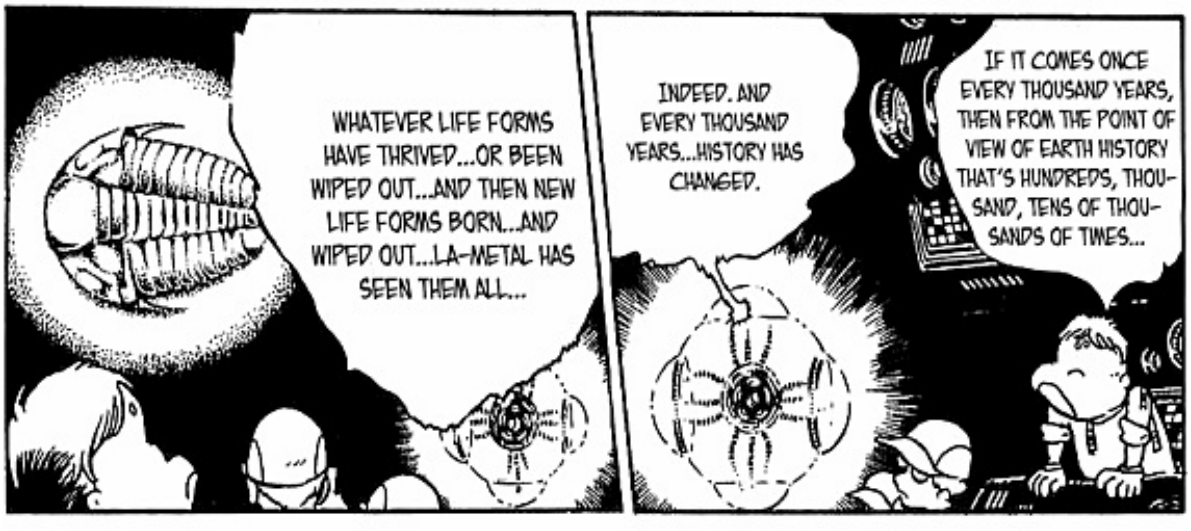
THIS...IS A MODEL OF THE PLANET...THAT IS APPROACHING EARTH...
YES...NINE ITEMS WERE SENT TO ME FROM THERE...
TH- THEY WERE SENT FROM THERE
YES...BUT BY THEMSELVES THEY CAN'T FLY OR LAND PROPERLY...
WERE SENT... SO SOMEONE IS THERE...TO HAVE SENT THEM?
I GUESS...SHE SHOWED US PICTURES IN A DATA CAPSULE FROM NINETY-EIGHT MILLION YEARS AGO...I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO MAKE OF IT...
CALLING IT UNCON-FIRMED TRAJECTORY PLANET A-6 IS A BIT OF A PAIN. HOW ABOUT WE CALL IT YUKINO'S PLANET?
PROFESSOR!! IN TEN SECONDS THE COMPUTER WILL FINISH CALCULATING THE PLANET'S FINAL ORBITAL TRANSIT WITHIN THE SOLAR SYSTEM...I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THE SPEED...


THE NAME OF THE PLANET FALLING THE ELLIPTICAL ORBIT IS...
PLANET
!!
PLANET... SOMETHING-OR-OTHER...I CAN'T MAKE OUT THE PRONUNCIATION AT ALL??
THE NAME OF THIS PLANET IS PLANET
PLEASE
SHALL I PRONOUNCE IT IN EARTH SPEECH...?
EH...WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IN EARTH SPEECH, THE NAME OF THE PLANET IS...

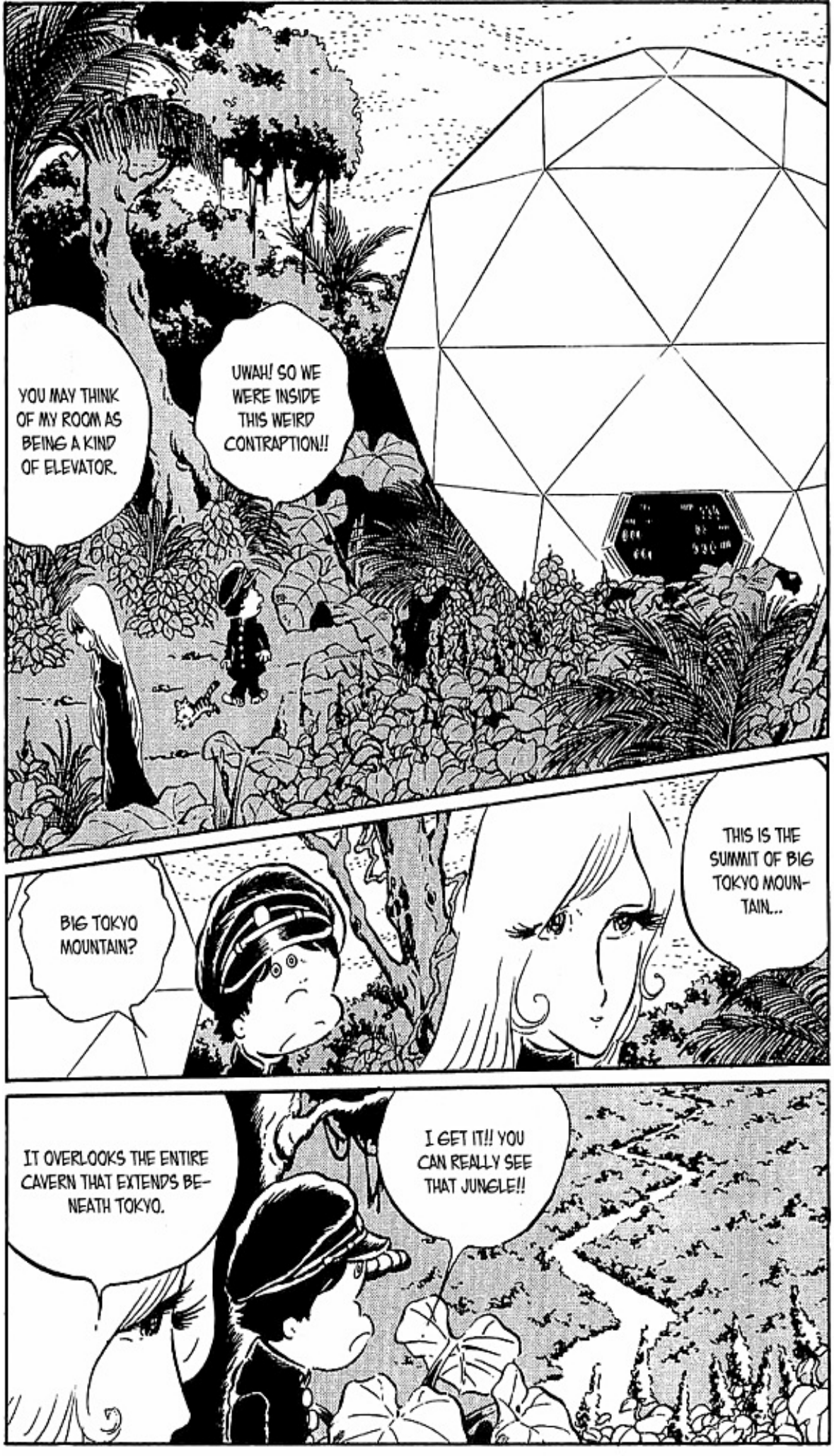

PLANET LA-METAL
IN LA-METAL SPEECH IT MEANS ETERNAL TRAVELER.
PLANET "ETERNAL TRAVELER", HUH...
SOON YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE IT WITH THE NAKED EYE. BY NOW THE OBSERVATORY WILL HAVE CALCULATED AN ESTIMATE OF THE ORBITAL TRANSIT WITHIN THE SOLAR SYSTEM...
AND THAT THE METEORITES WERE SENT FROM THERE...TO HERE.
WE'VE ARRIVED.
A- ARRIVED? WHERE?

THE STAR IS CALLED LA-METAL...MEANING "ETERNAL TRAVELER"...


HALLEY'S COMET 75 YEARS
LA-METAL 1000
IT ORBITS THE SOLAR SYSTEM EVERY THOUSAND YEARS IN AN ENORMOUS ELLIPTICAL ORBIT.


WHATEVER LIFE FORMS HAVE THRIVED...OR BEEN WIPED OUT...AND THEN NEW LIFE FORMS BORN...AND WIPED OUT...LA-METAL HAS SEEN THEM ALL...
INDEED. AND EVERY THOUSAND YEARS...HISTORY HAS CHANGED.
IF IT COMES ONCE EVERY THOUSAND YEARS, THEN FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF EARTH HISTORY THAT'S HUNDREDS, THOUSAND, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TIMES...

QUIT SCREWING AROUND AND TELL US RIGHT NOW.
YOU MUST HAVE FIGURED OUT THE MOST CRITICAL MEANING OF THE "ONE THOUSAND YEAR" ORBITAL PERIOD.
IT WAS JUST TALKING AND THEN WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED...
THE FIRST TO KNOW THAT WILL BE HASHIME. VERY WELL... GOOD-BYE.
WE'VE HAD NO CONTACT FROM HIM. I'M WORRIED.
THE FIRST TO KNOW WILL BE HASHIME...HUH...I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY.
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO. SHALL WE GO?
YES...IT'S THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN... YOU REMEMBER FROM HAVING BEEN HERE BEFORE.
THIS IS THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN...OR JUST LIKE IT!!
B- BUT... WHEN DID WE ARRIVE???


UWAH! SO WE WERE INSIDE THIS WEIRD CONTRAPTION!!
YOU MAY THINK OF MY ROOM AS BEING A KIND OF ELEVATOR.
THIS IS THE SUMMIT OF BIG TOKYO MOUNTAIN...
BIG TOKYO MOUNTAIN?
I GET IT!! YOU CAN REALLY SEE THAT JUNGLE!!
IT OVERLOOKS THE ENTIRE CAVERN THAT EXTENDS BENEATH TOKYO.